GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1914
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2016
Irrigation Infrastructure
Parthipan Shri R.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to increase the efficiency of the irrigation infrastructure; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. State Governments undertake several measures for increasing efficiency of Irrigation infrastructure. Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government in this regard through various schemes/programmes. The Union Government provides central assistance under Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme to the state governments with a view to increase the efficiency of the infrastructure further, to increase water use efficiency, a minimum of 10% of Culturable Command Area (CCA) of each project under CADWM programme is also being brought under Micro Irrigation. Central assistance to the tune of 50% is provided to the States for development of infrastructure to facilitate use of sprinkler/ drip irrigation systems as an alternative to on-farm development works with a view to increase the efficiency of the irrigation infrastructure.

The National Water Mission set up under National Action Plan on Climate Change has the mandate of improving water use efficiency by 20% in the three Irrigation, domestic and industrial sectors. One of the strategies for increasing water use efficiency is to incentivize use of efficient irrigation practices and fully utilize the created facilities.
Central Water Commission has prepared Guidelines for improving water use efficiency in irrigation, domestic & industrial sectors. Central Water Commission has been observing the performance overview and management improvement of Major and Medium irrigation Projects of the Country. It has so far studied water use efficiency of 35 irrigation projects and performance evaluation of 131 projects. These study reports containing the detailed findings on remedial measures were conveyed to the respective project authorities for taking-up the suggested corrective measures. For increasing the operative efficiency of the irrigation projects, CWC has been encouraging water auditing. It has published general guidelines for water audit and water conservation. These Guidelines have been circulated to all the State Governments and concerned Central Ministries and other Utilities for framing their own specific Guidelines.

The States are being sensitized on importance of benchmarking of irrigation projects through workshops. So far, one National level, three State level, seven Regional level and three Project level workshops have been arranged. Modified Guidelines for the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (effective From October, 2013) have encouraging provisions for inclusion of the ERM Projects of the water sector reforming States which are committed to implement Micro Irrigation in at least 10% of command area.

The per drop more crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) inter-alia aims at promoting efficient water conveyance and precision water application devices like DRIPS, Sprinklers pivots, rain-guns etc in the farm.

The NWP, 2012 has recognized the importance of water saving in irrigation and has inter alia recommended are as follows:

"Water saving in irrigation use is paramount importance. Methods like aligning cropping pattern with natural resources endowments, micro irrigation (drip, sprinkler etc) automated irrigation operation, evaporation-transpiration reduction etc should be encouraged and incentivized. Recycling of canal seepage water through conjunctive ground water use may also be considered ".

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